

SPORTS

ARLINGTON SUN GAZETTE

A Second For Read At Region

Wakefield's Haidat Earns a State Berth

by DAVE FACINOLI
Staff Writer

Katie Read saved her best for last.

Running on the Burke Lake Park course for the final time in her high school career, the Yorktown senior finished second in last week's Northern Region girls meet.

Cross Country

Her runner-up time of 17 minutes, 48 seconds was a personal best on the course. That time shattered her previous best mark on the trek, set a week earlier, by 35 seconds.

Read finished second to Hayfield junior Melissa Dewey (17:36). The order of finish was the same the first time the runners met at the Monroe Parker Invitational in September. That meet was also at Burke Lake Park.

Last week, though, Read was much closer to Dewey. In fact, at the two-mile mark Read was nearly shoulder-to-shoulder with Dewey, who pulled away a bit over the final three-quarters of a mile. Read never led in the race.

"That's the longest I've ever stayed with



Yorktown High School senior Katie Read enjoyed her best finish ever in the Northern Region meet when she placed second in last week's race.

PHOTO BY DAVE FACINOLI

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her," Read said. "My goal was to stay with her as long as I could. I feel like I'm getting closer on her. This was my last race on this course. I wanted to give it my all."

Read and Dewey meet again Saturday at the Group AAA state meet at Great Meadow in The Plains. Read will be running in the state championships for the first time. The top 15 runners at region meets qualify for the state.

Read failed to qualify in past years when she placed 55th in the region as a junior, 50th as a sophomore and 38th as a freshman. Read ran a lot this past summer and entered the 2003 season in top shape. As a result, she has been running well this fall and has had her best high school season by far.

"I'm so excited and honored to be there [at the state meet]," Read said.

Read won the previous week's National District meet and won the Arlington County championship meet earlier this season. In addition, she finished second to the defending Group AAAA Maryland state champion in a meet in Annapolis, Md.

Read and her Yorktown teammates placed 11th in the girls region team competition with 266 points. Yorktown junior Becca

Shinners, who qualified for last year's state meet by placing 12th, finished 42nd this year (19:39) and did not earn a return trip to states. Yorktown sophomore Emma Causey was 60th (20:12).

The National District champion Washington-Lee Generals finished 10th in the girls region meet with 262 points. The Generals were led by senior Ellen Childress, who had a strong performance in 19th place in 19:04. Junior runner Candida Ayala was 37th for the Generals, freshman Lane Wollerton was 72nd, senior Emily Gousen was 75th and freshman Margaret Oates was 80th.

For the Wakefield girls, junior Jasmine Riley was 81st and junior Rebecca Zimmerman was 97th.

In the boys meet, the Wakefield Warriors placed 14th with 402 points and were led by state qualifier Mudasar Haidat. The senior placed 14th in 15:44. Haidat was limping after the race because of a sore knee.

"It [the knee] didn't bother me until the last 800 meters when a couple of guys passed me," he said. "My goal was to get to states and I did it."

Wakefield coach Bob Strauss said Haidat ran hard.

"He pushed the whole way," Strauss said. "The goal today for him was not to relax."

The Washington-Lee boys finished 15th with 405 points and Yorktown was 16th with 453.